Research being made-1935.

Library Group Seeks To Assemble Records, Papers, Books of South

Concerted efforts are being made by southern libraries, universities and patriotic societies under the leadership of a committee of the American Library Association to assemble and preserve valuable southern documents, newspapers, books and magazines which in time will reflect the true life and atmosphere of the south.

The committee on resources of southern libraries which is leading the campaign and which is headed by R. B. Downs, librarian of the University of North Carolina, chairman, met at the Biltmore hotel Tuesday afternoon at the final session of a two-day meeting.

Progress in assembling the various valuable documents, books and other items in the collection was reported in all the 13 southern states from Virginia to Texas, according to Mr. Downs.

The material, he said, is being collected and preserved to develop resources for research and graduate study in a number of library centers in the south.

He said that in Atlanta the various colleges were co-operating and were co-ordinating their efforts to avoid duplications and that already many valuable items had been unearthed.

In Nashville, Vanderbilt and Peabody are co-operating, and the universities of North Carolina and Duke are co-operating in the work in North Carolina, he said.

When the task nears completion the committee of the American Library Association, which he represents, will conduct a southwide survey of the libraries and regional union catalogs will be assembled, which will show what books are in the libraries in various sections, Mr Downs added.

Members of the committee who attended the meetings were Carl H. Milam, executive secretary of the American Library Association; H. L. Webb, librarian, Tulane University; Donald Coney, librarian, University of Texas; B. H. Branscomb, director of libraries, Duke University; Harry Clemons, librarian of the University of Virginia; Margaret Jamison, librarian, Emory University; W. L. Hall, state librarian of Virginia; F. V. C. Drury, librarian, Nashville public library, and Miss Tommie Dora Barker, original field agent of the south of the American Library Association.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
March 25 1935

Negro Invasion of White Areas In City Laid to Economic Need

Howard H. Harlan of University of Virginia Reports on Sociological Survey Here

The tendency for Negroes to locate in small settlements in and around Richmond's more exclusive residential sections is attributed primarily to economic causes in the report of a study conducted by Howard H. Harlan, Phelps-Stokes research fellow in sociology at the University of Virginia.

It is pointed out that while the city's main colored population has become segregated in Jackson Ward, near the business and industrial district, smaller groups have sprung up in Woodville, Washington Park, Providence Park, Oak Park, Westwood, and Zion Town in order that they might be nearer their "subsistence activities" in the form of domestic employment offered in suburban Westhampton, Hampton Gardens, Ginter Park, and Sauer's Gardens.

Survey of Zion Town

Selecting Zion Town as a typical Negro settlement in close proximity to the better areas of white residence, Mr. Harlan made a thoroughgoing investigation of racial life within the community and its work activities.

He found that practically all Zion Towners who had jobs were employed as cooks, butlers, maids, laundresses, and in similar capacities provided by the white community of Westhampton. The University of Richmond, the Country Club of Virginia, and the various schools, clubs and churches in the district furnish employment for a large group of unskilled and semi-skilled laborers.

"In this one fact alone," Mr. Harlan concludes, "is seen the reason for the location of Zion Town, and one form of interaction between the two communities is exposed."

He points out that the Southern colored worker "is almost entirely limited in his economic activities to domestic and personal service or unskilled and semi-skilled labor," with the result that he must seek employment where such opportunities exist.

"Westhampton, as a high-grade middle class community, furnishes a high demand for domestic service, and various institutions in Westhampton likewise furnish a demand for labor.

"Since the colored worker lives close to the margin of subsistence, it is almost imperative that he live near the place of employment so that he may save even the comparatively small cost of transportation."

A native of Zion Town, because of his proximity to the scene of his employment, enjoys a distinct advantage over his town fellow in supplying Westhampton's demand for service and labor, Mr. Harlan adds.

Have Separate Social Life

It was observed that Zion Towners have a separate social life of their own. Leisure time is devoted to the home, the lodge, and the church, and the residents are said to be helpful, kind and considerate of their neighbors.

Mr. Harlan found that the families were closely bound together by their social and religious activities, and that colored individual's life as a person "is lived only among his own race and in his own groups and institutions."

Federal Clipping Bureau Largest Private Service In Entire World

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—(AP)—Out of two years of work, a method has been devised by which a photograph of public opinion is placed every morning on the desk of President Roosevelt.

Like some 400 heads of government departments, who also receive it, the President uses it in shaping his day by day decisions.

The photograph is a photostatic copy of news and editorial clippings from several hundred newspapers representing all sections of the country.

It is brought together by half a hundred workers in a dozen rooms of the Commerce Department building. They comprise the division of press intelligence, headed by Miss Katherine C. Blackburn.

In the two years the division has been operating, it has been slowly expanding. At first it simply provided a clipping service for the White House and some of the cabinet officers.

But the President gave it some word of mouth advertising at several cabinet meetings and fresh demands for the service piled in upon Miss Blackburn.

90-Page Bundle

Now it is put out in the form of a 90-page bundle of photostats to which there are 400 government subscribers. The service is free to the department heads.

Circulation of the report is restricted to this list of government officials. Outsiders are not allowed to subscribe, although there have been numerous trade associations and other organizations and individuals who have sought to obtain it.

In operation, the agency probably is the largest private clipping service in the world. When the report comes to President Roosevelt's desk, it not only has editorial separated from news items, but boht classes are marked clearly to indicate what particular branch of government the item should interest.

After wading through some 5,000 clippings a day, the workers in the press intelligence division have discarded all duplicating stories. They have even doctored some of the headlines to make them clearer to the casual reader.

Four Sections

Roughly, the work is divided into four sections. One group of trained newspaper workers reads the papers, marking each item that contains facts of interest to any government agency with the initials of that agency. Even advertisements are included.

The marked papers are sent to a corps of clipping experts who whittle the items out with shears. To each clipping is attached a notation of the newspaper, the city and the date.

The clippings are pasted upon cards. These are put through the photostat machines.

Additional copies are kept by the division so that they may fill special orders by government agencies for clippings.

Right now, the State Department is the keenest customer of the service. All the clippings of the Ethiopian war are made in duplicate. All items dealing with the domestic situation in any of the other countries of the world are carefully snipped out. Special copies are made for the different divisions of the department according to the particular geographical section of the world they are detailed to watch.

Hurry Calls

Now and then, a hurry call comes through, like the one a year or so ago when farm strikes were springing up in the Middle West.

Miss Blackburn was called in the middle of the night.

"We need a compilation of everything that has been printed in the last day or so in the farm strike states for use at the cabinet meeting today," she was told.

Early in the morning there was a mustering of the press intelligence division. All the major papers in the five States were brought together. Farm strike news was clipped and hurried to the photostats.

When the cabinet came together at 11 a.m., copies of everything that had been said about the farm strike, editorially and in the news columns, in those States had been set down upon freshly dried photostats and were passed around to help give the cabinet a picture of the strikes.

President's Idea

The division was said to have been conceived by the President. He has known Miss Blackburn for upward of a dozen years. For 11 of those years, she was executive director of the Woodrow Foundation, of which the President was one of the originators.

During the 1932 campaign, Miss Blackburn was attached to the headquarters of the Democratic national committee in New York.

The whirl of new deal developments brought her to Washington to sort out public opinion.

KY. STATE COLLEGE PLANS OCCUPATIONAL STUDY AT BIG COST

Employment to be Given Force of More Than 200 In New Government Survey

Frankfort, Ky., November 30, 1935 —The department of Special Studies of the Kentucky State College has made application to the Federal Government for funds with which to conduct a survey of the educational background, the occupational status and the occupational opportunities for Negroes in Kentucky. The funds for this survey, which are estimated to be something more than one hundred thousand dollars are to be provided for the most part by the Works Progress Administration.

This project, which has already been approved by the State Office of Education and is now pending the final action of the Federal Government; and when the survey materialized it will give employment to more than 200 persons as well as provided a storehouse of valuable information in regards to the Negro in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The project is under the direction of Dr. E. M. Norris, head of the department, and his assistant, Professor David H. Bradford.

RARE MATERIAL IN RESEARCH STUDIES OF FOUR WINNERS

Honors Go to E. D. Preston, John B. Cade, Chas. H. Wesley and Clayton S. Ellsworth

Washington, D. C.—(Special)—The history prizes annually given by a friend of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History for the purpose of increasing interest in the JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY have recently been awarded by the committee consisting of Professor L. D. Turner of Fisk University; Professor Benjamin G. Brawley of Howard University; and C. G. Woodson, Director of the organization. These prizes are given for the best and next best article for the best and next best review contributed to the JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY during the year ending the first of October.

The prize for $100 goes to Mr. E. D. Preston for his article in the October issue of the JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY entitled "William Syphax, a Pioneer in Negro Education in the District of Columbia." Mr. Preston is a native of Washington, D. C., where he was educated in the public schools and at Howard University. Upon being graduated at that institution in 1918, he went South to teach in various institutions, serving last at the State Teachers College, Montgomery, Alabama. During recent years, he has been doing graduate work toward the Doctorate at Ohio State University. That institution has already honored him with the degree of Master of Arts. Within the next few weeks he will begn services as special investigator with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

The prize of $50 for the next best article contributed to the JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY goes to Professor John B. Cade of Prairie View College. This teacher has set the noble example which others should follow in saving the records of the Negro that the race may not become a negligible factor in the thought of the world. Some years ago when he was doing extension work as a representative of Southern University in Louisiana where he was stationed at that time, he took upon himself the task of interviewing the ex-slaves of that state to learn from them exactly what their experiences were in slavery and what they thought of the institution. In this investigation he had the cooperation of a large number of teachers whom he instructed at various points in Louisiana. From the data thus collected he produced for the JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY an article giving these testimonies under the caption "Out of the Mouth of Ex-Slaves." In so doing he has made some contribution to the scientific study of slavery as seen from the points of view of investigators like Mrs. H. T. Catterall, Miss Elizabeth Donnan, and Dr. Frederic Bancroft. In trying to whitewash the South and its heroes, numerous pseudo historians have been endeavoring to prove that the institution was a benevolent system which never should have been abolished since it gave such satisfaction to the slaveholders and to the persons held in bondage. Professor Cade has done his part in uprooting this untenable teaching.

The prize of $50 for the best review contributed to the JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY during 1935 goes to Dr. Charles H. Wesley of Howard University. This author is well known to the public as a product of Fisk University, Yale, and Harvard, and an outstanding leader in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He has recently added to his credit the first definitive biography of Richard Allen, an effort not only to present the work of Richard Allen among his immediate followers, but to give his career an historic setting among men and things of that time. Dr. Wesley reviewed the EVOLUTION OF THE NEGRO COLLEGE, by Dean Dwight Oliver Wendell Holmes, the head of the Graduate School of Howard University. This volume is a brief treatment of the rise of the Negro colleges, their function in the readjustment of the freedom after the Emancipation, and the role played by these institutions in the life of the Negro today. This work by Dr. Holmes a few years ago was accepted as meeting the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Columbia University.